

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application including claims 42 to 54 (claim 1 amended herein), in view of the following remarks, is requested.

Claims 42 to 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 based on double patenting in view of claims 1 to 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,620,124.

Claim 42

Claim 42, as amended herein, defines an extractable engagement member including a tapered protrusion having a generally parabolic profile. The generally parabolic profile of the tapered protrusion is not defined by any of claims 1 to 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,620,124.

The undersigned has had telephone interviews on June 1 and 5, 2007 with Examiner Bouchelle regarding the foregoing amendment to claim 42. The undersigned understood from Examiner Bouchette that the foregoing amendment may possibly receive favorable consideration by the Examiner. Also, the undersigned understood from the Examiner that a terminal disclaimer may be required.

Claims 43 to 54

Claims 43 to 54 each depend from claim 42 and thereby contain all of the limitations thereof. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 43 to 54 should be withdrawn for the same reasons as for claim 42, and such action is requested.

The foregoing is submitted as being fully responsive to the Office Action including the rejections contained therein. Accordingly, the above-identified application is submitted as being allowable and allowance thereof is requested.

No fee is believed to be required for entry of the present Amendment in the record of the above-identified application and consideration thereof. However, if a fee is required, the USPTO is authorized and requested to charge the fee to the Deposit Account No. 08-2461.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the above-identified application, the Applicant's Attorney Gordon F. Belcher is requested to be contacted at the below-identified telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon F. Belcher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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